

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1962

To: William H. Brubeck

From: McGeorge Bundy

May we have a prompt rundown on this report?



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

WASHINGTON

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OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

December 8, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

SUBJECT: U.S. - Financed Russian Trucks in Cuba

The following item, attributed to United Press International item 40 from Mexico City on November 29, 1962, appeared in the November 30 CIA Daily Summary (SC No. 03062/62):

A Central European professional man with Havana connections said on 28 November that Russian military trucks being delivered to Cuba are being financed by the Pan American Health Organization of the UN (PAHO), an Agency to which the United States is a prime contributor. The informant said the truck deal has resulted from a \$144,000 increase in funds allotted to Cuba for malaria control, although the disease is virtually unknown there, and that therefore Cuba is "getting these military vehicles from the USSR and in effect getting them paid for by others." He noted that other Latin American countries, where malaria is a more serious problem, have been unable to obtain any such increase in funds. Russia was said to have set up the deal by insisting that it would contribute to the health organization only if it earmarked \$98,752 -- the cost of the Russian trucks -- exclusively for Cuba.

Seems to me that this, if true, poses a domestic political problem as well as a foreign affairs problem. There are those who would be delighted to embarrass both the Administration and the U. N. with this item.


Edward R. Murrow
Director

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